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Patent claims

1. A method for selecting resources in communication networks (ISDN, VoIP), particularly in packet-switching networks (VoIP), having communication components (A1 -A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which use the resources in the network, where a plurality of resources provide the communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the same function, characterized in that
- the functions and statements about the performance of a plurality of or all resources are ascertained and stored by a communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2),
- when a resource is being used by a communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) at least one database is used to store resource-specific information about the use of this resource, and
- the stored functions and statements and/or the resource-specific information stored in the database are used to select the resource.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that information sent by the resources is statistically evaluated and stored for the purpose of storing the resource-specific information.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the resource-specific information stored is information about the reliability and/or safety and/or availability and/or the costs for use of the resource.

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4.   The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the resource-specific information stored by a
5   communication component (A1 - A4,  B1 - B11,  C1 - C3, S1,  S2)  can  be  provided  for  other  communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

5.   The method as claimed in one of the preceding
10   claims, characterized in that the resources are the useable services of communication components (A1 - A4,  B1 - B11,  C1 - C3, S1, S2).
15

6.   The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one of the communication components (A1 - A4,
20   B1 - B11,  C1 - C3,  S1,  S2)  has  an  integrated  search function for ascertaining the addresses of resources of further  communication  components  (A1 - A4,  B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

25   7.   The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the  reaction  times  of  the  resources  are  taken  into account for the statement about the performance.
30

8.   The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that information  about  the  present  utilization  level  or
35   about the remaining capacity of the resource is taken into account for the statement about the performance.

9.   The method as claimed in one of the preceding

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claims,

characterized

in that if a resource which is being used by the
communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,
5   S1, S2) fails then the communication component selects
the next available resource with the same function for
further use.

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10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized
in that the functions and/or the statements about the
5    performance of a plurality of or all resources are
repeatedly ascertained immediately after the
communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,
S1, S2) has been turned on and/or at stipulated
intervals of time.
10

11. A computer program product for carrying out one of
the aforementioned methods,
characterized by
-    a module for finding the addresses of further
15        communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 -
C3, S1, S2),
-    a module for checking the availability and for
ascertaining the performance of resources,
-    a module which, when a resource in at least one
20       database is being used, stores resource-specific
information about the use of this resource, and
-    a module for selecting a resource on the basis of
the information checked and/or the resource-
specific information stored in the database.